

Malaconotus blanchoti hypopyrrhus Hartlaub

Coll. C/3 fresh, 14th September, 1961, near Lusaka (R. V. Wood). Eggs smooth, with some gloss; cream with faint pinkish tinge, boldly but very sparingly marked light raw umber, on underlying blotches or coalescences of light grey (all markings with a tendency to concentrate around or at top of large end); size 29.5 x 21.5, 29.4 x 20.4, 30.9 x 20.4 mm. Although this clutch was not taken in the vicinity of a dwelling house, C. R. S. P. has a record of a nest in a hedge in the centre of Broken Hill; and in Uganda, in the grounds of Makerere College, Kampala, and another at a County Headquarters. It seems that this species is attracted to some extent to human settlements.

Anthreptes anchietae (Bocage)

Coll. C/1 fresh, 17th April, 1961, Serenje (C. W. B.). Egg smooth, without real gloss; off-white, with a narrow wreath of sepia, bunting-like scribblings and spots, on a similar wreath of underlying ashy; size 18.3 x 11.8 mm. The nest was in the top of a *Pterocarpus angolensis* tree, about 20 feet above the ground. A. Angus reports that it is composed mainly of flowers of *Protea* sp. and the hairy ovaries of *Faurea saligna*, bound together mainly with the rachids of the leaf of some papilionaceous plant such as *Indigofera* sp. and the awns and glumes of the grass *Loudetia superba*. There can be no doubt about the identification of the bird, as a good view was obtained of one of the parents as it left the nest. For the only previous description traced of the eggs, see Benson (*Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl.*, 71, 1951: 8). This earlier clutch is very similar.

References:

- Benson, C. W. 1959. Some additions and corrections to a Check List of the Birds of Northern Rhodesia. No. 2. *Occ. Papers Nat. Mus. S. Rhod.*, 3(23b): 257-285.
 Pitman, C. R. S. 1957. Further notes on aquatic predators of birds. *Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl.*, 77: 89-97, 105-110, 122-126.
 Pitman, C. R. S. 1961. More aquatic predators of birds. *Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl.*, 81: 57-62, 78-81, 105-108.

A new race of the Spotted Munia, *Lonchura punctulata* (Linn.)

by A. HOOGERWERF

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When comparing all adult specimens belonging to the subspecies *fretensis* present in the Bogor Museum (18 skins) with a corresponding series of *nisoria* from Java* I find it impossible to separate a sufficient percentage of birds belonging to the former subspecies from those of the latter, though seen in a series *fretensis* might be a trifle duller on the under parts. The population of *Lonchura punctulata*, living on the island of Bawean (between Java and Borneo), however, differs from both *fretensis* and *nisoria* because the brownish edges on the feathers of the under surface are distinctly lighter and also average narrower, giving those parts a paler appearance, whereas the chestnut-brownish area on the chin and throat does not extend so far downward as in both other races. And finally, the

* In accordance with Kenneth C. Parkes¹ the subspecific name for Javan birds should be *nisoria* (Temminck) instead of *punctulata* (Linnaeus).

white on the under parts covers a larger area. Moreover Bawean birds average lighter above when comparing old skins of the different subspecies, collected at about the same time, specially on the lower back and upper tail-coverts. The tint on the sides of the head and the neck averages lighter.

In order to demonstrate the similarity between *nisoria* and *fretensis* and the differences between both races and birds obtained on the island of Bawean, I may point to the following results, after comparing all eight adult Bawean birds with 18 *fretensis* and 23 *nisoria*, mixed together.

When separating the ten skins having the smallest quantity of brown on the chin, throat and foreneck there are six out of the eight Bawean birds among them, three of the 18 *fretensis* and only one of the 23 *nisoria*.

Separating ten birds having the dullest under parts we again have six skins from Bawean, three of *fretensis* and only one of *nisoria*,

Selecting ten specimens being darkest brown on the chin and throat area, we pick out only one skin of Bawean, three of *fretensis* and six of *nisoria*.

Looking for 15 skins which have the most white on the lower surface we find all eight Bawean birds, six *nisoria* and only one *fretensis* among them.

And when we separate the ten skins showing the more elongate markings in the plumage of the under parts, indicated in the diagnosis of the subspecies *fretensis*, we select only one bird from Bawean, five of *fretensis* and four of *nisoria*.

From the above it seems evident that there is not much reason to maintain *fretensis*, not on account of the characters mentioned by Boden Kloss² and not for any other difference. All characters mentioned in the diagnosis of *fretensis* seem to have only an individual significance and cannot be considered as being of subspecific value.

Therefore this Bawean Island material seems closer to the subspecies *blasii*, *sumbae* and *fortior* and perhaps also to *particeps* from Celebes than to birds originating from Java and Sumatra, though Stresemann³ suggests that *blasii* should show darker markings below but that is not so in the two skins now in my hands. Our opinion concerning the resemblance of Bawean birds to those three subspecies is based on the rather scanty material at present in the Bogor Museum and on the particulars published by Rensch⁴ about *fortior*. After reading Rensch's remarks: "Die Rasse *fortior* ist von *nisoria* nicht nur durch die bedeutendere Grösze zu unterscheiden, sondern auch durch die geringere Melaninpigmentierung der Unterseite: das Braun der Kehle zieht sich nicht so weit auf die Brust herab und die weissen Partien der Brust-und Bauchfedern sind ausgedehnter" (the italics are mine), it is evident that the Bawean representative of this species seems rather similar to *fortior*, whether we examine old material or freshly collected birds, though one bird has some green on the upper tail-coverts, a quite unknown feature in Bawean birds.

On account of this similarity it would seem justifiable to include Bawean Island within the range of the subspecies *fortior*, but this last race is decidedly larger than birds from Bawean which in size exactly agree with birds belonging to *fretensis* and *nisoria*, when not a trifle smaller still. The size-differences with *fortior* are evident when comparing our measurements with those published in the diagnosis (ten *fortior*: wing 53-55, averaging 54 mm.). Though the subspecies *blasii*, *sumbae* and *particeps* seem rather

similar to *fortior* on the under parts, they are greenish-yellow on the upper surface of the tail, which perhaps is also the case in certain skins of *fortior* but not in birds from Bawean Island.

Comparing the 14 juvenile birds we obtained on Bawean with as many young birds of *fretensis* or *nisoria* it is also in this case quite easy to pick out all Bawean specimens because they are much paler on the under parts, especially on the breast, throat and chin, whereas the upper parts seem to average less brown. Perhaps this last difference may be seen as a consequence of post-mortem changes, but I do not believe that this is also the case in the colour of the under parts. The only juvenile skin of *blasii* I could study, is also darker below than in the average Bawean bird.

When mixing old skins with recently collected material from Bawean it seems justifiable to disregard any post-mortem change in the plumage, though wings and upper surface seem to average a trifle darker in fresh skins. Though nearly all Bawean skins were preserved in formalin, this seems of little importance regarding the differences indicated above because we find the same differences in dry preserved skins and in those collected in 1928 which almost exactly agree with our fresh ones.

All adult specimens collected by me on Bawean Island had the ovarium small to well granular and the testes of the males were small.

Therefore there seems sufficient reason to separate Bawean's population of *Lonchura punctulata* from all other subspecies known from areas within the boundaries of the Indonesian Archipelago under the name:

Lonchura punctulata baweana subsp. nov.

Types: ♂ Mus. Zoöl. Bogor, No. 5562, 8th May 1928, South Bawean (Java Sea); leg. P. F. Franck.

♀ Mus. Zoöl. Bogor, No. 22.957, 11th June 1954, Sangkapura, Bawean; leg. A. Hoogerwerf.

juv. ♂ Mus. Zoöl. Bogor, No. 22.955, 5th June 1954, Mt. Bulu, Bawean; leg. A. Hoogerwerf.

ad. ♂♀ In size agreeing with the subspecies *nisoria*, *fretensis*, *blasii*, *sumbae* and *particeps*, but smaller than *fortior*, not only in the wing but also in tail measurements.

On account of the lighter brown of the dark markings on the feathers of the under parts and the narrow edges to the feathers which form these markings, together with the smaller area of chestnut on the chin and throat, *baweana* is at once different from *nisoria* and *fretensis*. The feathering on the sides of the head and the neck averages a trifle lighter in *baweana* as is the case in the plumage of the upper surface.

From the subspecies *blasii*, *sumbae* and *particeps*, *baweana* differs by the lack of any greenish tint on the upper side of the tail and from *fortior* because of its smaller size (wing-average: 54 mm. in *fortior* (males and females) against 52 mm. in adult ♂ and 51.17 in adult ♀ of *baweana*).

The juveniles are separable from those of the subspecies *nisoria*, *fretensis* and *blasii* on account of their being paler below, especially on the breast, throat and chin.

Measurements: (in mm.)

♂♂ Wing; *nisoria*: 52, 52, 53, 53, 53; *fretensis*: 51, 51, 52, 52, 53; *fortior*: 52; *particeps*: 48, 50; *baweana*: 52, 52;

Tail; *nisoria*: 34, 37, 37, 38, 40; *fretensis*: 35, 37, 38, 41, 42; *fortior*: 37; *particeps*: 28, 38; *baweana*: 38, 38;



Lonchura punctulata subsp.

1. *Lonchura punctulata baweana* subsp. nov. (Bawean Island)
2. " " *fretensis* (Sumatra)
3. " " *nisoria* (Java)
4. " " *fortior* (Smaller Sunda Islands)

Culmen; *nisoria*: 9.2, 10, 10, 10.8, 11.9; *fretensis*: 11.2, 11.2, 11.8, 11.9, 12; *fortior*: 11, 10; *particeps*: 10, 10; *baweana*: 11, 11.1.
 Max., min. and average measurements:

	<i>nisoria</i> 52-53	<i>fretensis</i> 51-53	<i>fortior</i> 52	<i>particeps</i> 48, 50	<i>baweana</i> 52, 52
Wing:	52-60	51-80		49	52
		Rensch ⁴ :	53-55		
		(10♂♀)	54		
Tail:	34-40 37-20	35-42 38-60	37	28, 38 33	38, 38 38
		Rensch ⁴ :	38-39		
		(3♂)	38-67		
Culmen:	9.2-11.9 10-38	11.2-12 11-62	11, 10 10-50	10, 10 10	11, 11-10 11-05

♀♀ Wing, *nisoria*: 49, 50, 51, 52, 53; *fretensis*: 50, 51, 51, 52, 52; *fortior*: 53, 55; *blasii*: 51, 51; *particeps*: 51; *baweana*: 50, 50, 51, 52, 52, 52;
 Tail, *nisoria*: 32, 35, 40, 40; *fretensis*: 32, 33, 35, 41, 42; *fortior*: 40, 43;
blasii: 34, 37; *particeps*: 35.5; *baweana*: 35, 35, 37, 37, 37, 38;



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PURCHASED.



Lonchura punctulata subspp.
(juveniles)

1. *Lonchura punctulata fretensis* (Sumatra)
2. " " *baweana* subsp. nov. (Bawean Island)
3. " " *nisoria* (Java)

Culmen, *nisoria*: 9.1, 10.1, 10.2, 10.5, 11.6; *fretensis*: 10.5, 11, 11.4, 12.1, 12.6; *fortior*: 11.2, 11.2; *blasii*: 10, 11; *particeps*: 10.50; *baweana*: 10.2, 10.4, 10.5, 10.5, 11.1, 11.1.

Max., min. and average measurements:

	<i>nisoria</i>	<i>fretensis</i>	<i>fortior</i>	<i>particeps</i>	<i>blasii</i>	<i>baweana</i>
Wing:	49-53	50-52	53, 55	51	51, 51	50-52
	51	51.20	54		51	51.17
Tail:	32-40	32-42	40, 43	35-50	34, 37	35-38
	36.75	36.60	41.50		35.50	36.50
Culmen:	9.1-11.6	10.5-12.6	11.2, 11.2	10.50	10, 11	10.2-11.1
	10.30	11.52	11.20		10.50	10.36

References:

- ¹ Parkes, Kenneth C. Taxonomy and Nomenclature of three species of *Lonchura* (Aves: Estrildinae), *Proc. U.S. Nat. Museum*, 108, 1958, pp. 279/93.
- ² Boden Kloss, C. An account of the Sumatran birds in the Zoological Museum at Buitenzorg with descriptions of nine new races, *Treubia*, 13, 1931, p. 363.
- ³ Stresemann, Erwin. Die Formen von *Munia punctulata* (L), *Nov. Zoölogica* 19, 1912, p. 317.
- ⁴ Rensch, B. Die Vogelwelt von Lombok, Sumbawa und Flores, *Mitteilungen aus dem Zoöl. Museum in Berlin*, 16, p. 598.
- ⁵ Rensch, B. Neue Vogelrassen von den kleinen Sunda-Inseln, *Orn. Monats Berichten*, 36, 1928, p. 7.